



IN THIS SEASON OF GIVING AND RECEIVING I would like to give you guys some ideas on what you can give your ol Prez for Christmas (!)

1. The Blarney Stone...the real Blarney Stone. Wouldn't it be great to have at the meetings? If you had something to say to the club, you could kiss it and you wouldn't sound stupid. We could haul it in the parade as our mascot, or we could use it as a paper weight.

2. Pot of gold. I figure if the prize committee can go to the ends of the earth for the monthly raffle, they ought to be able to go to the end of a rainbow for a little old pot of gold.

3. Saint Patrick's Staff. We could use it with the Blarney Stone so you can only talk when you are in possession of the staff, or something like that.

To get to the point, I would like to wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's Day. Go Hawks! See you at the Christmas Party!

President Mike O'Connell

Wearin' of the Grin

The teacher asked young Patrick Murphy, "What does your family do at Christmas time?" Patrick told the class, "Well, Ms. Jones, me and my twelve brothers and sisters go to midnight mass and we sing hymns; then we come home very late and we put mince pies by the back door and hang up our stockings. Then all excited, we go to bed and wait for Father Christmas to come with all our toys."

"Very nice Patrick," she said.

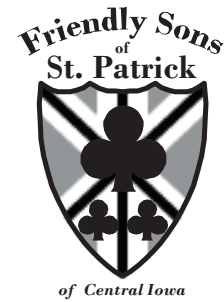
"Now, Jimmy Brown, what do you do at Christmas?"

"Well," he said, "me and my sister also go to church with Mom and Dad and we sing carols and we get home ever so late. We put cookies and milk by the chimney and we hang up our stockings. We hardly sleep, waiting for Santa Claus to bring our presents."

Realizing there was a Jewish boy in the class and not wanting to leave him out of the discussion, she asked,

"Now, Isaac Cohen, what do you do at Christmas?"

Isaac said, "Well, it's the same thing every year...Dad comes home from the office. We all pile into the Rolls Royce, then we drive to Dad's toy factory. When we get inside, we look at all the empty shelves...and sing "What A Friend We Have in Jesus"... then we all go to the Bahamas for a week."



The Blarney

Upcoming:

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 14

"Top of the Tower"
Holiday Inn Downtown
1050 Sixth Ave.

[NEXT MEETING]
Jan. 11

DECEMBER [NOLLAIG] 2015

'Beannachtaí séasúr' to one and all!

That's a Gaelic "Season's Greetings," friends! Wisdom may teach "Don't look back, you're not going that way," but a little end-of-year reflection may well be in order, methinks.

The Friendly Sons organization has had a banner year, raising thousands of dollars for charity and all the while enjoying the pleasure of close friendships with all of those who make up our ranks. An accomplishment worthy of celebration, don't you think?

We'll gather on Dec. 14 for our **Annual Christmas Dinner in the "Top of the Tower" at the Holiday Inn Downtown** to do just that, to toast our organization, the people who make it strong, and the good works accomplished this year.

Plans have been finalized and a cocktail hour kicks the night off at six, with dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

Holiday entertainment from the Foy Dancers and Kelly's Clan Duo is on tap, while a raffle table will be laden with enchanting goodies, courtesy of the Prize Committee.

Our new Irish-themed Christmas tree will make its sophomore appearance and you'll enjoy a new video presentation from Son Mike Dennis summarizing the past year's events. Ladies will again receive a special Irish token from the club and President Mike O'Connell is hard at work with his speech writing team to put just the right oratorical touch on the evening.

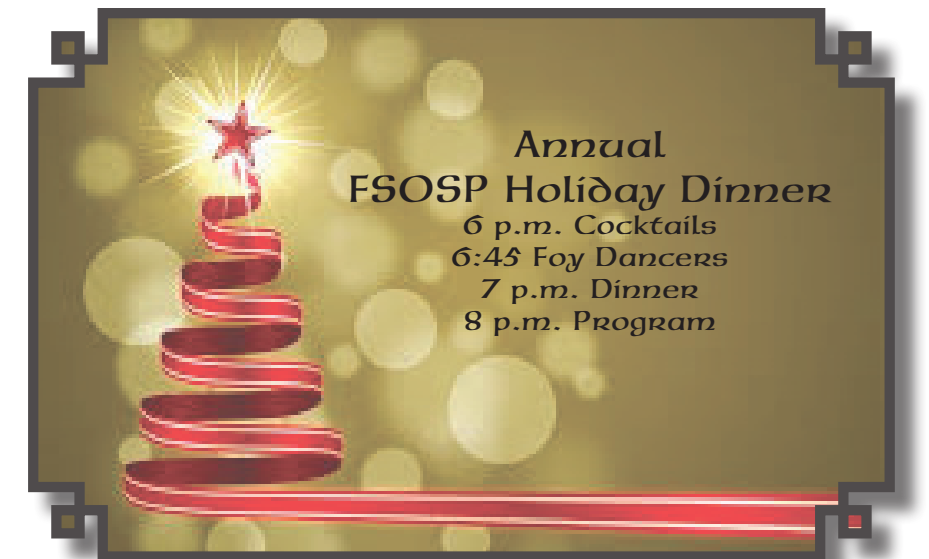
Our annual dinner is held because it's important that we take time during the rush of the holidays to enjoy the things in life that really matter. This month, may you take in the serene moments spent with friends and loved ones, and may the wonder of Christmas surround you throughout the holiday season. To one and all, Slainte! 🍀



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Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick
The Mickle Center #241
1620 Pleasant
Des Moines, IA 50314



Annual
FSOSP Holiday Dinner
6 p.m. Cocktails
6:45 Foy Dancers
7 p.m. Dinner
8 p.m. Program

Christmas carol conundrum challenge

Each of the statements below expresses the name of a well-known Christmas song, just in an irregular form. “Translate” the titles into the “regular” versions. (The words in the “regular” version may be in a different order.)

Good luck, me boyos! 🍀

1. The initial example of a highly celebrated nativity.
2. A felicitous emotion, directed at the entirety of the terrestrial sphere.
3. Pass hitherward, everyone who exhibits consistency of character.
4. A young lad whose musical talents are expressed rhythmically.
5. The hour of its transparent occurrence coincided with the instant often associated with maximal darkness, either figurative or literal.
6. Strike with the fist, with sufficient force as to cause unconsciousness, Mr. and Mrs. Hall.
7. A nocturnal period unbroken by auditory interruptions.
8. My advice to you is to listen intently to, and heed, the heavenly messengers as they vocalize musical selections announcing an important event.
9. A significant distance from here, within the confines of a feeding trough for animals.
10. The auditory sensation of roughly spherical sound-making objects, vibrating in a resonant fashion, followed by the name of the objects themselves.
11. Our sincere desire for you is for your yuletide celebration to be an enjoyable one.
12. A dozen terrestrial rotational time periods, signifying a series of steps leading up to, and ushering in, the celebration of the Nativity.

ANSWERS:

1. The initial example of the Nativity.
2. A felicitous emotion, directed at the entirety of the terrestrial sphere.
3. Pass hitherward, everyone who exhibits consistency of character.
4. A young lad whose musical talents are expressed rhythmically.
5. The hour of its transparent occurrence coincided with the instant often associated with maximal darkness, either figurative or literal.
6. Strike with the fist, with sufficient force as to cause unconsciousness, Mr. and Mrs. Hall.
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Board News

Ever-watchful, the board is moving to replenish a depleted cash account by moving money from our stuck-in-the-mud CD into a money market.

At the November meeting proposals were made to look at cutting some expenses, as well. After all, any monies saved or conserved will constitute more donations that can be made.

First up is pulling back on the cooler of “specialty beers” at the monthly meetings. Members have a wide choice at the beer buffet already and everyone is free to bring some surprises whenever they wish. The result will mean a yearly savings in the \$600 range.

Sidebar: Those who volunteer to clean up each month can vouch that there is a lot of wasted beer at the gatherings. All of us should be careful to finish cans, once started.

It’s recommended we start some casual discussion about whether the \$10 meal fee is really covering our costs. And are we subsidizing the Christmas dinner too lavishly?

Some data on these and other financial strains and realities will be forthcoming.

End-of-the-year donations were approved for: **House of Mercy, Best Buddies, and Holy Family School** (\$1000 each).

Additionally, we are contributing to Mentor Iowa’s adopt a family Christmas program this year. (See right.)

We were given 5 children to sponsor. A mentor discussed a wanted/needed wish list with the family for items like clothing, books and games, shared that with us and suggested an average amount of \$75 per child. Next came the shopping.

Board member **Jim O’Donnell and his wife, Terrie Jo**, stepped up to the plate and hit a homer. Braving the recent Black Friday onslaught, they aimed at a \$375 mark and...(drum roll)...hauled in items valued at over \$900 for just \$340 and change. Hats, coats, boots, games and toys to make these kids feel wanted and special.

Give them a huzzah next Monday night, won’t you?

Another over-the-top success came from the efforts of member **Jack Blackford** this month.

The FSOSP has received a check for \$5,000 from Polk County, a “Community Betterment Grant” to use toward our mounting parade expenses.

This was the result of Blackford’s masterful grant writing expertise and we couldn’t be happier.

And that’s a fact, Jack!

BLARNEY BITS

More about **Mentor Iowa** and their mission: This non-profit, volunteer organization was started in 1974 by citizens in the community, a Juvenile Court Judge and court personnel, all of whom were concerned about the growing number of children served by the court. MI aims to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the court.

Their creed is “Every Child Deserves a Future.” Learn more about this great organization at: mentoriowa.org.

Christmas may be the only holiday event these kids get to participate in and our gifts for the children we sponsor will be distributed at a holiday party this month. 🍀

Sully’s December events

5TH

100 DAYS TO ST. PAT’S PARTY

16TH

STU RYAN O’BRIEN IRISH SING-ALONG, 7 P.M.

19TH

POLAR RIDE, 1 P.M.

To AJ’s on Court and back

After-Party: Food and drink specials, give-aways, raffle

Proceeds benefit the DM Bicycle Collective

24TH

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PARTY

Free food & live music by Mike Aceto

31ST

NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

Free food & live music by Mike Aceto

JAN. 6TH

PIRANHA BROS., 7 P.M.

CMA Concert - Jan. 23

Next up in the Celtic Music Association concert series is **Ten Strings & A Goat Skin**, at Holy Trinity Hall, 8 p.m.

Hailing from Prince Edward Island, this bilingual trad/fusion trio plays Irish, Acadian, French and original creations infused with modern and world rhythms.

Learn more about them at myriadartists.com/ten-stringsandagoatskin. 🍀